



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

 News Releases  Podcasts

MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release:
September 26, 2007

Contact: Carla Harris
(804) 726-7107

Groups to examine prisoner re-entry, ways to reduce recidivism

Interviews available with law enforcement, social services and public safety officials

Richmond – Interviews are available with officials from law enforcement, social services, public safety, the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Corrections, the Commonwealth Attorney's office, and community and service agencies during a forum on Thursday, Sept. 27. The Richmond City Prisoner Re-entry Forum will examine ways to reduce the rate of recidivism in the city and to coordinate re-entry programs to help ex-offenders settle back into their communities after leaving prison.

- **Facts of interest:**

- Approximately 29 percent of released prisoners in Virginia are re-incarcerated within three years
- Between 10,000 and 12,000 prisoners are released from state correctional facilities each year; even more leave local jails and federal prisons annually in the Commonwealth
- More than 1,000 men and women leave Virginia correctional centers and return to the City of Richmond each year
- More than 90 percent of those who enter a state prison will be released
- In recent years, the number of released prisoners has increased 25%

- **Newsworthy topics to be discussed during the forum:**

- What a re-entry program is and does
- Re-entry as a public safety issue
- Connecting ex-offenders with positive influences and resources
- Assisting and mentoring the children and families of prisoners and ex-offenders
- Building safer and stronger communities

- **Forum information:**

- Thursday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- Richmond City Police Training Academy, 1202 West Graham Road, Richmond
- Sponsored in part by the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Richmond City Department of Social Services

For information on the Virginia Department of Social Services' Prisoner Re-entry Program, visit

http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/prisoner_reentry/. For details on the forum, go to

http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/cvs/ocpp/prisoner_reentry_resources/community_involvement/forum.pdf